

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF WATER

Rear Admiral Timothy Gallaudet Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 51030 Washington, D.C. 20230

Rob Wallace Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW, MS-3160MIB Washington, D.C. 20240

RADM Gallaudet and Mr Wallace:

Earlier this week, I met with your representatives regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) request to assume administration of the Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting program. I very much appreciate the support of your agencies on this effort. For your information, the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 Regional Administrator has designated FDEP as the non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation for this effort, pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.08. The Regional Administrator's letter to FDEP is enclosed for your awareness.

Sincerely,

David P. Ross

Assistant Administrator

cc: Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Enclosure